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## GIFTS MADE TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES BY INDIVIDUALS

BY ARTHUR CHAPMAN

### INTRODUCTION

At the request of Dr. Dana Bartlett, who, feeling that there is a need for the compilation of a list of the gifts that have been made to the city of Los Angeles, the following paper has been attempted. The writer, who is a student of the University of Southern California, made this survey as an original problem, working under the direction of Dr. E. S. Bogardus, head of the Department of Sociology of the University of Southern California.

The writer followed three methods of obtaining information. First, by personal interviews with people of long residence in Los Angeles or with those who might have such information; second, by letter to those who were more or less inaccessible, and, third, by consulting histories of Los Angeles.

So far as the writer knows this is the first survey of its kind. One can understand the difficulties to a small degree, at least, when it is realized that there was absolutely nothing upon which to work or from which to start. Also, a complete list of the gifts of various nature to the city is impossible, as the writer interviewed several people who had made gifts to the city but positively refused to have their names mentioned or any publicity made whatsoever. The writer requests that anyone reading this paper who has a knowledge of any gift which has been made to the city and is not here reported, would communicate with the writer by addressing the Sociology Department of the University of Southern California.

### CHAPTER I

#### Description of the gifts made by individuals to the City of Los Angeles.

Number 1—Hollenbeck Park is the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Hollenbeck and Hon. William H. Workman. Mrs. Hollenbeck gave eight acres of land and Mr. Workman gave about eleven. At the request of Mr. Workman it was called Hollenbeck Park. This property was deeded to the city in 1892.

Number 2—Sunset Park, containing ten acres, was donated to

the city by Mrs. Clara R. Shatto in 1905. This park has been worth a great deal to the entire Wilshire section.

Number 3—Griffith Park is the gift of Col. Griffith J. Griffith, and was made in 1896. This is the second largest park in the world and contains three thousand and fifteen acres. The largest park in the world is at Copenhagen, Denmark, embracing four thousand two hundred acres. At the present time the estimated value of Griffith Park if subdivided would be about five million dollars.

Number 4—The Florence Crittenden Home at No. 234 East Avenue 33 was built and donated to the city by Mr. C. T. Johnson in December, 1914. This was deeded to the city with the condition attached that if it was discontinued as a Crittenden Home it should be used as an Old People's Home.

Number 5—Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave to the city in 1911 two hundred and ten thousand dollars for the purpose of establishing six branch libraries. The condition under which this money was given was that the city should furnish the sites and appropriate yearly one-tenth of the amount given, which would amount to twenty-one thousand dollars, for maintenance and upkeep. Three of these branch libraries are now complete.

Number 6—Mrs. Ida Hancock Ross made a bequest in 1913 of ten thousand dollars to be used for the furnishing and equipping of a room in the new City Library, in memory of her former husband, Mr. Hancock. The bequest was made on the condition that it be carried out in five years and if not done in this time the money is to go to a charitable institution. It appears now as if this gift will be lost to the city, as the "New Library Building" will not be completed by 1918, nor perhaps even started.

Number 7—Mr. James Slauson and his mother, Mrs. S. R. Slauson, gave four hundred dollars in December, 1911, for the purchase of books to be placed in the Slauson Branch Library.

Number 8—Donations of varying denominations are made to the Playground Commission by citizens. Some are as low as ten dollars. For the year ending July 1, 1915, the cash contributions totaled seven hundred and seventy-eight dollars.

Number 9—Dr. John S. Griffin gave a site at the end of Downey Ave. (now North Broadway) for a reservoir to be used for irrigation purposes. This site amounted to about ten acres and is not in use now, but is still owned by the city.

Number 10—A group of citizens who called themselves the Highland Park Improvement Association gave a reservoir site to the City in 1910. This site was one hundred feet square. The property is worth about one thousand dollars.

Number 11—Mrs. Ida Wilcox Beveridge gave the City in 1913 a site for the housing of some of the City's fire fighting ap-

paratus. The building was erected a short time afterward. The lot is worth now about eighteen thousand dollars. The location of the site is No. 1625 Cahuenga Boulevard.

Number 12—Mrs. Beveridge also donated to Hollywood the site now occupied by the Hollywood Branch Library. This became the property of Los Angeles when Hollywood was annexed to the City in 1910.

Number 13—Mrs. Lula Snider gave to the City about one thousand dollars in equity in a twelve hundred foot lot at San Pedro, the lot to be used as a site for a fire house.

Number 14—Mr. Fred F. Wheeler and L. W. Andrews constructed a number of circular and oblong flower beds in the central park of Occidental Boulevard and extending from Sixth Street to Third Street. These flower beds were given to the City on the condition that they be maintained. The result is the creation of one of the beauty spots of Los Angeles.

Number 15—Mr. Harris Newmark tendered to the City, August 25, 1882, a drinking fountain, fronting the junction of Main and Spring Streets, for the free use of the public. This was accepted by the City and served its purpose for a number of years. It was torn down for no other reason, apparently, than that few people care very much for the sentiments of the past.

Number 16—Mr. Jacob Weixel on June 1, 1875, donated the site of the present Grand Avenue school, comprising 240 feet on Grand Avenue and 165 feet on Eighth Street.

Number 17—On December 8th, 1879, Mr. W. H. Workman and wife donated the site on which is now situated the Breed Street School. The site was given on the consideration that a building be erected and maintained by the school board.

Number 18—Mr. Elijah Workman, while he was Councilman of Los Angeles, which was from 1865 to 1869, gave time and money to the landscaping of Central Park. He planted a number of trees from seed which had been brought from the East and also was responsible for the planting of a large number of shrubs and plants, so that today we see some of the results of Mr. Workman's labor in the magnificent trees which adorn one of the places of beauty in Los Angeles.

Number 19—In 1886 the site on which the 23rd Avenue School now stands was donated to the City. This was formerly the Hellman Street School. The site which is triangular is 162 by 342 by 306 feet. In 1901 the value of the property was \$6500.<sup>1</sup>

Number 20—In 1884 the site of the Loreto Street School, formerly the Highland View, was donated to the City. The site is 150 by 180 feet, and the valuation in 1901 was \$1000.<sup>1</sup>

1. The names of the donors are not available at this time.

The acreage containing the famous La Brea pits, which was given to Los Angeles County by G. Allen Hancock, does not come within the scope of this survey, as the gift was made to the County and not to the City. The writer believes, however, that residents of the City will benefit by this gift and also that the site of Hancock Park, as it will be called, eventually will be within the City limits, and therefore should be mentioned. The property was tendered to the County May 1, 1916. It consists of thirty-two acres of what is known as the Rancho La Brea. This particular section of the ranch contains the famous pits which have given to the world "countless skeletons of animals that lived in Southern California many thousands of centuries before the advent of man."

The conditions on which the property is given are that a small museum shall be erected in which at least a specimen of each of the extinct species is to be reproduced for the benefit of the public; that trees, flowers, shrubbery be planted; that at no time shall the property be used for the development of oil; and that the property is to remain in escrow until the work is completed.

## CHAPTER II

Herewith are tables showing the years in which gifts were made, also showing the number of gifts according to purposes:

### *Table I—According to Years*

- 1875—Weixel—Grand Avenue School site.
- 76-78 (Inclusive)—No gifts.
- 79—W. H. Workman and wife—Breed Street School site.
- 80-81 (Inclusive)—No gifts.
- 82—Harris Newmark—fountain.
- 83—No gifts.
- 84—The site of the Loreto Street School.
- 85—No gifts.
- 86—The site of the 23rd Avenue School.
- 87-91 (Inclusive)—No gifts.
- 92—Mrs. Elizabeth Hollenbeck and Mr. W. H. Workman—Hollenbeck Park.
- 93-95 (Inclusive)—No gifts.
- 96—G. J. Griffith—Griffith Park.
- 97-1904 (Inclusive)—No gifts.
- 1905—Mrs. Clara R. Shatto—Sunset Park.
- 06—F. F. Wheeler—flower beds.
- 07-09 (Inclusive)—No gifts.
- 10—Highland Park Improvement Association—reservoir.
- 11—Andrew Carnegie—branch libraries.
- 12—No gifts.

- 13—Mrs. Ross—bequest.
- 13—Mrs. Beveridge—fire house site.
- 14—O. T. Johnson—Crittenden Home.
- 15—Playground donations.

*Table II—According to Purpose*

1—For Library Purposes.....	4
2—For Park Purposes.....	3
3—For Better Water Facilities.....	2
4—For Better Fire Protection.....	2
5—For School Purposes.....	4
6—For Public Fountain.....	1
7—For Beautifying the City.....	1
8—For Philanthropic Purposes.....	1

#### CONCLUSIONS

The estimated value of all property that has been given by individuals to the City, that is estimated in present values and in a very conservative way, is something over five million seven hundred thousand dollars. The number of donors is sixteen.

In making this survey the writer has observed a number of places concerning which there is no question that gifts would be very acceptable. There are numerous street intersections in various parts of the city which would be ideal locations for drinking fountains. In this land where water is almost as precious as liquid silver, what better way could there be for perpetuating a name or a memory than by a refreshing draft? Also there is the need for numerous homes for the accommodation of the unfortunate. A good many such homes will have to be built before the condition in Los Angeles can be called relieved to any great extent.

A need which assumes gigantic proportions upon consideration is that for a municipal auditorium where ten thousand or more people can be accommodated comfortably and which will be within easy access from most parts of the city. We as a city are behind many cities in this country in the matter of housing our petty criminals. Perhaps, it may be said, if our jail were too commodious we would have difficulty in housing the inmates. This, however, is no argument for setting aside the question of humanity. We need a library building and likewise a city hall. Also, we lack what many cities have, namely, statues located in various places, as parks or in streets, in memory of great men, or commemorating events which should be sacred to us as American people.

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- Charles Dwight Willard, *History of Los Angeles City*, Kingsley—Barnes & Neuner Co., Los Angeles, December, 1901.
- Southern California—An Illustrated History*, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1890.

## PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Mr. O. T. Johnson	Mr. Mark Keppel
Mr. Charles S. Lamb	Mr. Kaspare Cohn
Mr. J. M. Guinn	Mr. M. A. Newmark
Mr. L. M. Anderson	Mr. H. M. Rebok
Chief Archie J. Ely, Los Angeles Fire Dept.	Mr. M. H. Newmark
Mr. Wm. G. Sheldon	Mr. Lorin Handley
Mr. Charles L. Wilde	Dr. Milbank Johnson
Mr. Griffith J. Griffith	Dr. Elbert Wing
Mr. George Dunlop	Dr. L. M. Powers
Mr. Fred F. Wheeler	Mr. W. M. Bowen
Mr. L. W. Butler	Mr. J. S. Meyers
Mr. George Alexander	Mr. W. H. Workman, Jr.
Mr. J. M. Elliott	Mr. E. R. Perry
Mr. Dana Bartlett	M. C. Bettinger